

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-11, 13 and 21-28 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 14-20 have been previously withdrawn. Claims 2-6 have been amended. Claims 29-31 have been added. Support for claim 29 can be found in the specification on page 3, lines 19-21. Support for claim 30 can be found on page 11, lines 1-2. Support for claim 31 can be found on page 11, lines 2-3. With entry of this amendment, claims 2-7, 12 and 29-31 will be pending.

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claim 12. Claims 2-7 and 29-31 depend from allowable claim 12, and are therefore allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-7 and consideration of claims 29-31 are respectfully requested.

Additionally, the Applicant wishes to comment on paragraph 5 of the Office action by pointing out that the reasons set forth by the Examiner appear to generalize some of the features of the claims. Therefore, the reasons set forth by the Examiner are not the only reasons that claims 2-7, 12 and 29-31 are allowable.

Independent claim 12 may include additional patentable features or combinations of features not mentioned by the Examiner. Additionally, each of dependent claims 2-7 and 29-31 may include additional patentable features or combinations of features not mentioned by the Examiner.

With respect to claim 12, the prior art does not teach or suggest a method of co-injection molding, the method comprising:

- mixing a plastic inner material and an endothermic-blowing agent to form a core mixture;
- injecting a plastic outer material from a first injection unit into a co-injection manifold to create a flow of outer material therethrough;

- injecting the core mixture from a second injection unit into the co-injection manifold to create a flow of core mixture therethrough;

- allowing the core mixture to enter the mold cavity only after the outer material enters the mold cavity, and then allowing the core mixture and the outer material to flow into the mold cavity concurrently, thereby co-injection molding the core mixture inside the outer material;

- stopping the flow of the outer material after the outer material concurrently flows with the core mixture, thereby allowing the core mixture to remain flowing;

- stopping the flow of the core mixture into the mold cavity, and resuming the flow of the outer material into the mold cavity; and

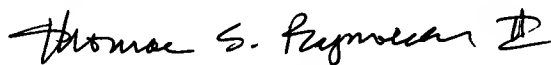
expanding the core mixture by providing heat for the endothermic-blowing agent to absorb.

Dependent claims 2-7 and 29-31 ultimately depend from claim 12. Accordingly, claims 2-7 and 29-31 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas S. Reynolds II", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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